

## Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100938

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. SUMMARY: WHILE A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO LATIN AMERICA IS NOT YET CERTAIN, WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH SOME PRELIMINARY PLANNING. A STAFF MEETING DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION ON THE HILL CONTRIBUTED TO OUR REVIEW OF HOW WE CAN BEST HANDLE CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS. THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE ATTENTION IN THE PRIMARY CAMPAIGN.

2. SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICAN TRIP. NO FINAL DECISION ON THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSED TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HAS BEEN MADE, BUT WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DOING SOME PRELIMINARY PLANNING. WE ARE AVOIDING ALL SPECULATION ABOUT THE TRIP, HOWEVER. YOU WILL BE GETTING ADDITIONAL MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT AS DECISIONS ARE MADE AND PLANS FIRMED UP.

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JECT AS DECISIONS ARE MADE AND PLANS FIRMED UP.

3. CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS. HARVARD PROFESSOR MARK TALISMAN, AN EXPERT ON CONGRESSIONAL MATTERS AND THE ORGANIZER OF THE INTRODUCTORY COURSE GIVEN TO NEW MEMBERS IN DECEMBER 1974, ADDRESSED AN ARA STAFF MEETING THIS WEEK.

HE SPOKE ABOUT THE NEED FOR AN INCREASED DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES AND URGED THAT WE MAINTAIN TOUCH WITH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND STAFFERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS. HE NOTED THAT THE HIGH NUMBER OF RETIREMENTS IN RECENT YEARS, THE ABOLITION OF THE SENIORITY SYSTEM AND THE ADOPTION OF STREAMLINED PROCEDURES HAVE RESULTED IN PROFOUND CHANGES ON THE HILL. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT AS A RESULT OF THESE CHANGES EACH MEMBER NOW ENJOYS MUCH MORE INDEPENDENCE AND FEELS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO HIS CONSTITUENTS. WHILE WE DID NOT COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHAT ACTION THE DEPARTMENT OR ARA SHOULD TAKE IN LIGHT OF THESE CHANGES, THE DISCUSSION DID PROVIDE SOME BACKGROUND FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HOW WE SHOULD DEAL WITH THE CONGRESS ON SUCH SENSITIVE ISSUES AS HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.

4. PANAMA CANAL. THE CANAL ISSUE CONTINUES TO BE A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BY THE CANDIDATES IN THE PRIMARY CAMPAIGNS. GOVERNOR REAGAN REPEATED HIS POSITION APRIL 23 IN A CBS INTERVIEW. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, PRESIDENT FORD IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE EDITORS OF A TEXAS NEWSPAPER CHAIN, SAID THAT TO TERMINATE THE NEGOTIATIONS "WOULD BE A POSITION OF IRRESPONSIBILITY." HE REPEATED OUR OBJECTIVE OF RETAINING THE RIGHT TO OPERATE AND DEFEND THE CANAL DURING THE TERM OF THE TREATY.

5. CASTRO REACTS TO U.S. CRITICISM. IN A MAJOR POLICY SPEECH APRIL 19, FIDEL CASTRO REJECTED U.S. CRITICISM OF CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, ASSERTED THAT THE DECISION TO INTERVENE WAS MADE BY CUBA NOT THE USSR, AND CALLED ANGOLA AN AFRICAN EQUIVALENT TO THE U.S. DEFEAT AT THE BAY OF PIGS FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. IN LANGUAGE BOTH DEFENSIVE AND BELLIGERENT, CASTRO SOUGHT TO EASE CONCERNS IN THE HEMI-CONFIDENTIAL

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SPHERE (INCLUDING CUBA) AND IN AFRICA OVER FUTURE CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTIONS BY ASSURING LATIN AND BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT THEY HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE CUBAN ARMED FORCES. IN OUR VIEW, THE SPEECH, REplete WITH CLASSIC CASTRO INVECTIVE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, WAS DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT CASTRO'S DOMESTIC AUDIENCE TO IMPLANT THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT VERSION OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY REFUTING WESTERN ACCOUNTS

OF THIS INVOLVEMENT PICKED UP IN CUBA FROM MIAMI RADIO AND TELEVISION.

6. PRESIDENT'S RULING ON SHOES. ON APRIL 20, THE PRESIDENT DECIDED TO GRANT LEATHER FIRMS ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE TO OFFSET INJURY DUE TO IMPORTS. THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION IN FEBRUARY FOUND THAT IMPORTS ARE HAVING AN INJURIOUS EFFECT ON PRODUCERS OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION WAS TAKEN IN THE FACE OF INDUSTRY AND LABOR PRESSURE FOR TRADE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES.

7. MARCONA SETTLEMENT. OUR TEAM RETURNED TO LIMA THIS WEEK TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATION OF A SETTLEMENT IN THE MARCONA CASE. UNDER SECRETARY MAW WENT TO LIMA LATE IN THE WEEK TO SIGN THE COMPLETE AGREEMENT.

8. SOMOZA VISIT. NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT SOMOZA IS NOW IN THE U.S. CARRYING OUT ANOTHER PHASE OF HIS PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN TO OFFSET HIS POOR PUBLIC IMAGE HERE. HE WAS RECEIVED WEDNESDAY IN CHICAGO BY MAYOR DALEY AND LATER ADDRESSED THE 1976 CHICAGO WORLD TRADE CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY COMMERCE SECRETARY RICHARDSON. SOMOZA HOPES TO OBTAIN CONSIDERABLE EXPOSURE IN THE CHICAGO PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA. SOMOZA ALSO SPENT A HALF DAY IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 20 EN ROUTE TO CHICAGO TO VISIT HIS MOTHER, WHO IS HOSPITALIZED HERE. PRESIDENT FORD PHONED HIM TO INQUIRE ABOUT HER HEALTH.

9. REPORT ON ILLEGALS MEETING WITH MEXICO. THE US INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON ILLEGAL ALIENS MET WITH THE MEXICAN COMMISSION ON UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 19-20 TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE ILLEGAL

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ALIEN PROBLEM. THE TALKS CO-CHAIRLED BY BILL LUERS AND AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ DE LEON, WERE MORE CORDIAL THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN RECENT YEARS. BUT THERE WERE NO GREAT BREAKTHROUGHS OR BRIGHT SOLUTIONS DISCOVERED. THE U.S. SIDE STRESSED THE GROWING CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO THE INCREASING NUMBERS OF ILLEGAL ALIENS ENTERING THE U.S. WHILE THE MEXICAN DELEGATION EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE LEGAL, LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN WORKERS. THE DELEGATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP IN TOUCH TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND TO FOLLOW-UP ON A FEW SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS IN THE ENFORCEMENT AND LEGAL AREA. THE HEADS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS AGREED TO BE IN TOUCH WITHIN ONE MONTH TO PURSUE A JOINT STUDY FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. SISCO

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